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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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Amendment

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) Protective device for an occupant of a vehicle comprising an inflatable cushion having first and second portions, (a) the first portion being directly above the second portion when the vehicle is upright, (b) the second portion comprising a material that decreases in length when inflated so as to create tension, the material being distributed substantially uniformly and continuously throughout the second portion, and (c) in which inflation of the second portion commences before inflation of the first portion.

2.-3. cancelled

4. (original) Protective device according to claim 1 in which the first portion comprises at least one inflatable node adapted, when inflated, to be positioned at approximately head level of the occupant.

5. (currently amended) Protective device for an occupant of a vehicle comprising an inflatable cushion having first and second portions, (a) the first portion being above the second portion when the vehicle is upright, (b) in which inflation of the second portion commences before inflation of the first portion, and (c) in which the first portion comprises

(i) at least one inflatable node adapted, when inflated, to be positioned at approximately the head level of the occupant and (ii) uninflated material adjacent abutting the at least one inflatable node.

6. (original) Protective device according to claim 1 further comprising an inflator connected to the vehicle and to the second portion and capable of moving as the second portion inflates.

7.-12. cancelled

13. (new) Protective device according to claim 5 in which the uninflated material is connected to or integrally formed with the at least one inflatable node.

14. (new) Protective device according to claim 5 in which the first portion further comprises a second inflatable node and the uninflated material is positioned between the at least one inflatable node and the second inflatable node.

15. (new) Protective device according to claim 4 in which the first portion further comprises uninflated material abutting the at least one inflatable node.

16. (new) Protective device according to claim 15 in which the uninflated material is connected to or integrally formed with the at least one inflatable node.

17. (new) Protective device according to claim 15 in which the first portion further comprises a second inflatable node and the uninflated material is positioned between the at least one inflatable node and the second inflatable node.